

The bottom line is that this restaurant has spent 6 years, over \$1 million; they have had bad publicity; they have had lower morale; they have had the Court come in and take over their operations and examine it from every angle. Then we are giving EEOC \$18.5 million in increase. I think EEOC must not have enough to do. If they claim there is a backlog, it is because they are spending time on such frivolous litigation. They should be examined very carefully.

Small businesses all across the country are being victimized by the EEOC. They are at the point where they cannot complain because they think retaliation will come. Joe's Stone Crab is a story of one owner saying, I will take on the government for the sake of small businesses. This restaurant is fighting the battle for small business all across the country.

My last comment, Mr. Chairman, is that I urge, as this bill moves forward and in the years to come, that the chairman address the issue of frivolous litigation and damages that the EEOC brings upon the small businesses in America.

JOHN SEIBERLING—
ENVIRONMENTAL HERO

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues that yesterday, September 8, was the 80th birthday of our former colleague and a good friend, John F. Seiberling.

John Seiberling was first elected to Congress in 1970, having already spent 25 years as a member of the military serving in World War II and as an attorney in private practice with the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., which his grandfather founded. After 16 years of Congressional Service, John retired voluntarily in 1986 with a lifetime of outstanding accomplishments.

Originally inspired to run for Congress by his opposition to the U.S. involvement in Viet Nam, John Seiberling quickly rose as a leader in the House efforts to end the war. Concerned about our defense and foreign policies, John was also a leader in the Congressional organization, Members of Congress for Peace through Law, known later as the Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus.

In the House, John Seiberling served on the Committee on the Judiciary. An active member, John participated in the Watergate hearings and was the floor manager for the historic House passage of the antitrust law rewrite, the Scott-Hart-Rodino Antitrust Act.

However, John was best known for his commitment to the environment and for his many accomplishments as a member of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Today, this Committee is the House Resources Committee. As a member of that Committee, John was a very special Member who stood very tall. I had the privilege to serve with John for ten years and to learn from him. John played a major role in securing the passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. This important law has reversed the damage caused by surface coal mining. John was also largely responsible

for the enactment of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area Act. This law created Ohio's first national park.

Alaska and the preservation of the unique national treasures of that state were at once a passion and an inspiration for John Seiberling. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands in 1977, John Seiberling was a leader in speaking out, fighting and shaping the comprehensive law and policy that finally preserved this last bit of wilderness for all America. While the fight took six long years and much of John's time, it was a labor of love. John Seiberling and Mo Udall were eventually successful in passing Alaska lands legislation which doubled the size of our National Park System and quadrupled our national wilderness system.

John's commitment to the environment continues today in his role as the Director of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, of which he was a founder.

I am certain that my colleagues will join me in saluting John Seiberling's accomplishments and wishing him a very happy birthday—a well deserved 80th year. John has shaped our landscape and environmental policies well into the future. Our best wishes for many more years of life and celebration of his work, the legacy and American heritage for generations yet unborn. Happy Birthday to the environment's best friend, John Seiberling.

THE AGING OF AMERICA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, August 12, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE AGING OF AMERICA

America is getting older. As Americans are living longer than ever before and as the Baby Boomers ease into their senior years, fundamental shifts will occur in our society. In areas such as health care, housing, and recreation, the impact of an aging population will be felt. The costs of providing these services will put a strain on the financial resources of governments and families alike.

The importance of Social Security and other federal programs for older Americans is emphasized by the fact that financial prospects for many Americans approaching retirement are grim. According to a recent comprehensive study: 40% have no pension income other than Social Security. One in five households has no assets and one in seven persons has no health insurance. 20% are disabled.

The cost of supporting older persons will be a heavy burden on the living standards of younger workers. By the year 2030 one in five Americans is projected to be 65 or older, up from one in eight today. And the proportion of the oldest Americans, those over 75, whose health care costs are especially high, will nearly double from present levels. This too will have a huge impact on government budgets and workers' incomes.

An aging America raises major social and political questions. Is it fair to place huge tax burdens on workers to pay for the retirees? Will the projected heavy spending on programs for older people crowd out other

important government spending like national defense or law enforcement? Will high taxes be necessary and, if they are, will they depress economic growth?

Given these facts many of the pundits are predicting warfare between the generations, between the young and the old. Yet I am doubtful of that. In my experience young people are just as concerned about protecting Medicare and Social Security as their parents are. My own view is that the bond between the generations is strong, and that should not surprise us given the strong family ties that still exist for the most part in this country. I think young people want older people to be secure and to have quality health care, and they don't want them to be dependent on them.

CHALLENGES OF AN AGING AMERICA

Everybody acknowledges the difficulty of ensuring the long-term stability of Social Security and Medicare. We simply cannot afford the contract we now have on the table as the Baby Boom generation approaches retirement. We will have a smaller number of workers supporting a much larger number of retirees, and something will have to give. So it represents a formidable challenge to our system of government to carry Americans—young and old—through the major changes needed in these programs.

The trend in America has been to retire earlier and earlier, and that has placed an extra burden on federal programs. In the last century more than 75% of men 65 years and over worked. In 1997 only 17% did. But things are beginning to change. Retirement ages are creeping back up and the whole concept of retirement is changing. Among other things, older people are increasingly leaving the work force gradually, taking temporary and part-time jobs.

Older people require more expensive social services—particularly health care—and they depend upon government programs like Social Security for much of their income. The importance of Social Security to older Americans cannot be over-estimated. Almost 92% of those 65 and older receive Social Security benefits and many would live in poverty if it did not exist. Moreover, as the number of the oldest Americans grows, the use of medical and long term care services such as hospitals, home care, nursing homes, and elder day care will increase sharply. The effect on Medicare and Medicaid will be significant. Today these programs provide insurance for health and long-term care for 97% of the elderly.

POLITICAL CHALLENGES

One has to wonder whether a democratic government is going to be able to deal with these challenges, particularly if it involves reducing benefits for an increasingly large and powerful group. Most analysts view bringing future benefits under control as necessary, yet older persons do not want their benefits cut. One alternative is raising taxes but that means that the current Social Security tax rate would have to be boosted sharply to provide the benefits that have been promised. Others suggest that we should adopt policies directing benefits to low-income elderly persons, and that would reduce costs and improve economic efficiency by getting the money to those who need it most. But to shift in the direction of either a tax increase or a benefit reduction causes a loss of popular support of many people. The challenge to the country may be to make the long-term investments in education, infrastructure, and basic research that lead to growth in the economy and new business opportunities, which in turn makes it easier for the economy to absorb the costs of programs for older Americans. The problem is how that long-term investment, much of which is directed toward younger people,

is going to happen when the largest and most powerful group will be older people.

I think it will be necessary for public officials to talk a lot more about how the satisfaction of building a better tomorrow outweighs the immediate appeal of greater and richer benefits. My personal experience is that older people are very receptive to that argument. The conventional view is that older people, as they wield ever greater power within our system of government, will lend their support to policies that serve their interests: higher spending on health, social services, and law and order, with spending on education taking a back seat. If this is the approach then that could spell trouble between generations. But I do not buy the view that we are headed in this country for intergenerational warfare. Most older people have children and they want the very best for those children, and that causes them to pursue their own interests less selfishly. Younger people want their parents to be adequately supported and everyone knows full well that they themselves will get older. They expect the next generation to help look after them in turn.

CONCLUSION

The aging of America will have a profound effect on our country. Rather than focus on the potential for intergenerational conflict, we need to see what can be done now to address the crunch we all know is coming. Steps should be taken soon to shore up both the Medicare/Medicaid and Social Security systems. In addition, each American needs to plan financially for their own later years. Proper planning and thought, on the part of the individual and of the government, will go a long way in helping the nation deal with these issues of an aging America.

CONGRATULATING THE HOUSTON COMETS, WNBA CHAMPIONS

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Houston Comets of the WNBA on their second consecutive WNBA championship. The women of the Houston Comets and the WNBA have brought a new respectability to professional sports—something that has at times been lacking in some of the male-dominated professional sports in recent years. These women, many of them working moms, are truly role models to young women across the United States.

At a time when our young people desperately need role models, these women have stepped up to the plate. The teams have dedicated themselves to community service and feel a real responsibility to their community and to their fans. Team members have done public service announcements to promote breast cancer awareness; they have volunteered their time to work with homeless children; and they have volunteered in soup kitchens to feed the homeless. In short they have given as much to their communities as they have received.

Another important result of the remarkable success of the WNBA has been its impact on women's sports in our high schools and colleges. It is a realization of the importance of Title IX programs. Today, a record 2.5 million girls compete on high school teams, compared with 300,000 in the early 1970s. The success

of professional women's sports should help continue this trend as our daughters are able to watch role models like Cynthia Cooper, Sheryl Swoopes, and Tina Thompson.

So again, Mr. Speaker, my congratulations to WNBA Coach of the Year Van Chancellor, League MVP and first team All-WNBA Cynthia Cooper, first team All-WNBA players Sheryl Swoopes and Tina Thompson, and the rest of the Houston Comets on their outstanding season and my thanks to them for providing our communities with such a positive image of professional athletes.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4380) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment by the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Some who oppose this amendment will express their concern about the unwarranted intrusion this amendment represents into the lives of children and their families in the District of Columbia.

Others will address the impact of this amendment on the principle of local control, and wonder what in the world the Congress of the United States is doing meddling with local adoption rules.

I share both of those concerns, Mr. Chairman. But tonight I wish to speak as an adoptive parent, who is concerned first and foremost about the well-being of unwanted children.

Mr. Chairman, it is a sad fact that not all parents are fit parents. Child abuse and neglect occurs in all kinds of families. Among "birth families" no less than adoptive families. Among so-called "traditional two-parent families" no less than families of less conventional description.

Most of us do our best to love and nurture our children, but no parent is perfect. And we all make mistakes.

But I also know that good parents and families come in all shapes and sizes, too. Some of the most loving, nurturing and supportive families would fail Mr. LARGENT's litmus test.

And that would be a tremendous loss for the half a million children now in foster care who would be deprived of the chance to grow up in that kind of environment.

There are too many kids out there who need decent homes for us to start deciding which characteristics to require of adoptive parents. Some who value a religious upbringing might want to disqualify prospective parents who are not religious. Others might want to disqualify people who are. Some might feel that only people with a certain level of income, or education, are entitled to adopt. And so forth.

But such considerations are really beside the point when it comes to adoption. The only test we ought to apply is the test the law already uses to determine whether a child belongs in a particular family situation or not. That test is whether the situation is in the "best interests" of the child.

The application of that test is a complex matter. It requires the careful weighing of a multitude of factors by those with the requisite experience and expertise. One thing we can be sure of is that the Congress of the United States is not the agency that is best equipped to do that evaluation.

Another thing I'm sure of, Mr. Chairman, is that it is not in the best interests of a child to be in an institution or on the street when he or she could grow up in a stable, loving household.

We should ask whether the parents have the means to feed and clothe the child and see to its education. We should ask whether they maintain a home that will offer the child a harmonious, stable and nurturing environment. We should ask whether they have the skills and the commitment it takes to be a good parent.

When we find a family that offers all this to a child in need, what kind of society would reject that family because the parents are "not related by blood or marriage?"

I believe we should embrace that family, Mr. Chairman, and be thankful that a lost child has been given a new home and a second chance in life.

CLIFFORD MELBERGER HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Mr. Clifford Melberger of my District in Pennsylvania. Cliff has been named "Community Leader of the Year" by the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. I am pleased to have been asked to participate in honoring him.

Deborah D. Hannon, Chairperson of the Foundation's Board of Directors, describes this prestigious award as "an award that is given throughout each chapter area to a person who epitomizes the word 'leader' in both his personal and professional life." Cliff Melberger is certainly a fine example of this criteria. He is the founder and CEO of Diversified Information Technologies, Inc., a national information management and document imaging company. Cliff has been an innovator in the use of computer systems to service the information management industry. He received two research grants from Pennsylvania's Ben Franklin Partnership to develop electronic vaulting, which is the transmission of computerized media via satellite or Telecommunications.

For the last 16 years, Clifford Melberger has defined Diversified's migration from a traditional records storage and retrieval company to a state-of-the-art information management company, providing Fortune 500 companies with access to their corporate records via multiple media platforms.

Mr. Speaker, Cliff Melberger began his career in banking after receiving his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Bucknell University. He served as president of the University's Alumni Association. He currently serves